

**Kendrick Park Committee**  
Minutes of Meeting April 2, 2009, 7:00 pm  
Glass Room, Bangs Center

**Attendees:** Christina Mata, Marilyn Rodzwell, Nancy Gordon, William Harris, William Hutchinson, Peter Blier, Irene Starr, Stanley Ziomek, Jerry Jolly, Liz Rosenberg, Susan Sheldon, Hope Crolus, Harry Brooks, Peggy Roberts  
Staff liaison: Christine Brestrup  
Other staff: Linda Chalfant and Alan Snow

Convened at 7:10 pm

No minutes available for review from January meeting.

**Application Form for Use of Kendrick Park**

The recently drafted form for application to reserve Kendrick Park for the use of events was reviewed. It was based on the one for the Town Common. Liz Rosenberg noted one big difference between the 2 areas is the surrounding environment. Kendrick Park is next to a residential neighborhood and this will make it more difficult to determine how to assign acceptable uses to specific parts of park.

Christina Mata noted that the Common application has provision for charging a fee for repair of any damage and asked if this is sufficient for Kendrick Park. Peggy Roberts said we may need to add to Section 5 more detail about responsibility for damage repair.

Liz Rosenberg believed the form should indicate what areas can be reserved for what kind of use, but we can't determine that yet. Christine Brestrup suggested that a map be attached with areas marked for the applicant to indicate what they would like to use. Christina Mata felt the town should reserve the right to specify what sections of the park are acceptable for various uses. Hope Crolus noted that their subcommittee recommended that the northern end should be a quiet area and the southern end be busy. But this is not set in stone and input from designers is needed before determining acceptable usages of various parts of the park. There are already requests for use of the park and we need some kind of process to regulate use.

Nancy Gordon was concerned about limiting the length of time of any event, but Stanley Ziomek noted a bigger issue is non-permitted uses of the park, and several members pointed out that the Boy Scouts are there for several weeks.

Christina Mata suggested a committee should oversee park usage because DPW and Police may have different agendas/criteria. Jerry Jolly expressed the

opinion that it is the Town Manager's job to ensure that the park is used properly, that the Town Manager uses information from DPW and Public Safety to decide acceptable uses.

A discussion ensued about profit-making activities, e.g. arts fairs, food sales. Should these be permitted uses? Alan Snow proposed charging fees for park use to generate income to fund care of the park. Christine Brestrup pointed out that a nonprofit organization is always involved in any use of Common, eg, Rotary and Taste of Amherst. Christina Mata said the Common's usage application indicates it may NOT be reserved by for-profit use, but this is missing from this form. Several noted a problem with the issues of fees in the proposed form: Section 2 vs 4.2 seems contradictory and ambiguous. Alan Snow asked if we want to restrict to non-profit or allow revenue making to be able to maintain the park. He said that the park is not yet ready for activities of large groups, there is poor soil cover over the old foundation holes which will get packed down hard, and that an upcoming event may damage the land. He believed there should be allowance for for-profit events. Christina Mata suggested that there could be different fees for non-profit vs. for-profit. Irene Starr said we don't want to discourage use of the park, but Liz Rosenberg noted that we don't want an event every day on the park. Christina Mata noted money will be needed to maintain the park. The town has the right to limit who uses it and allowing for for-profit that could pay a considerable fee might be good for the park. Stanley Ziomek can't think of any for profit use on the Common but Linda Chalfant pointed to the Farmers Market. Nancy Gordon was concerned the park will become a place for increasing numbers of vendors choosing to set up shop on the park rather than rent space in town, worsening in the future when people forget about reasons for creating the park.

Peggy Roberts recommended that the report committee needs to meet one more time to consider suggestions for the application for park use. She suggested Alan Snow's concerns about damage to the soil and tree roots either be added to the report or sent in a separate memo to the Town Manager. Alan Snow suggested making a recommendation that there should be a fee structure for maintenance of the park. Finally, Stan Ziomek noted that the form doesn't say anything about users having insurance for events. Peggy Roberts would like suggestions for the changes to the application be formalized and submitted to the next KPC meeting. All agreed it was not possible to finalize the Kendrick Park Application at this meeting. Liz Rosenberg recommended collecting park usage applications from other towns to see how others do this. Members were asked to send comments to Christine Brestrup.

Hope Crolius brought up the Hadley Garden Center trees to be planted and asked how it will be done. Will it be necessary to pay for the planting or might volunteers to it?

### **Upcoming Usage of Park**

The nonprofit group Ridebuzz which has a website for ride sharing has asked for use of the park on May 2. Alan Snow had heard that the event involves music and possibly many people. Peggy Roberts said the committee is NOT charged with approving this request, she brought it to KPC for discussion. Liz Rosenberg noted that the Town Manager took initiative on this; no one else to controls park use. Christina Mata pointed out the new bus shelter cuts into the park, something the committee opposed, but Christine Brestrup believes the shelter may be in the town right-of-way, not the park. Alan Snow expressed more worry about damage to the roots of trees, pointing out that that trees go into long,slow decline anytime a park is used for anything by anyone.

### **Continuing Committee Involvement in Park Development**

There was discussion as to whether we as a committee are interested in having continuing input on Kendrick Park development. Several expressed interest in being involved in the design phase. Christine Mata proposed adding to the final report that committee should remain in existence beyond the completion of our report.

### **Review of Draft of Final Report**

The committee stepped through the report systematically by sections: the introduction; the vision statement; design goals; public input and subcommittee recommendations; built structures; public restrooms; appendix. There was discussion of how to include the additional recommendations and comments (#16).

### **Additions to the Final Report**

All agreed the Committee should continue to exist.

Monetary issues: a proposal was made that a portion of remaining trust money be used to endow a fund to sustain and enhance the park, perhaps create an organization called "Friends of Kendrick Park." Several noted such an organization could provide volunteers/help as well as money.

### **Future Meetings**

There will be one final Report Subcommittee meeting to focus on the application for Kendrick Park use before the next KPC meeting.

It is expected that the KPC meeting on April 16 will be able to approve the final KPC report to the Town Manager, and so complete the committee's charge.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Peter Blier.